



On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
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The great great granddaughter of Edward Miner and Susan Denison Gallaudet paid her first visit to the University on July 30. Mary Denison Gallaudet, a resident of New York City, toured the campus while she was in Washington, D.C., attending the 2001 conference of the National Urban League, where she is employed as a program coordinator. The Urban League delivers services to minorities and to individuals living in poverty in over 100 U.S. cities. During her tour, Gallaudet visited with Provost Jane Fernandes (TOP), and met with Archives Director Ulf Hedberg (BOT-TOM), who shared a number of family letters and photographs with her.



Gallaudet selects two President's Fellows

Gallaudet recently named Laura Cook and Thomas Darden President's Fellows for 2001-2002. Cook, who will teach courses offered by the Department of Business Administration, Economics, and Finance, will enroll in the doctoral program in political economy at the University of Maryland. Darden, who will teach in the Biology Department, is enrolled in the master's program in biology at George Washington University.

The goal of the President's Fellows program is to increase the number of deaf people who are qualified to teach at the University level, particularly to meet anticipated future vacancy needs at Gallaudet. It recruits and supports deaf and hard of hearing full-time graduate students as they seek a Ph.D. in an academic discipline. The fellowship benefits include up to \$12,000 in tuition per year, an annual stipend, work as a teaching assistant at Gallaudet, and a mentoring program during the fellowship.

While ideas for "growing our own faculty" had been discussed by faculty governance in the past, President I. King Jordan formally endorsed creating the President's Fellows program in 1998 during the Deaf President Now tenth anniversary celebration, and it was established the following year.

The President's Fellows program actively seeks more applications from people from underrepresented groups to reflect the diversity of the Gallaudet student population.

Cook, who graduated from Gallaudet in 1993 with a B.A. in government, completed a M.A. program in European government at the University of Limerick in Ireland. In addition, she received

her paralegal certification from Old Dominion University in Virginia. Cook intends to "conduct research on the economic impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act upon the deaf community in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, as well as the economic development of the deaf community over a particular time period." Her long-term goal is to seek a position with an economics department upon completing her studies, preferably at Gallaudet.

Darden received his B.A. in biology from Brown University in 2001. While a student at Brown, he applied for the visiting student program and attended Gallaudet for one semester. He is interested in both the physiology and pharmacology fields, because he feels that these areas might fit into the future needs of the Biology Department. Darden said that the President's Fellows program "allows me to pursue graduate studies at a local university and get experience teaching ... (and) to experience a deeper immersion with other deaf people at the university level on a daily basis."

Returning fellows for the upcoming academic year include Raymond Merritt, biology, and Mairin Veith, government. Merritt is working this summer as a researcher for the National Institutes of Health, while Veith has been working with government faculty members at Gallaudet to develop a student travel study course to Western Europe for next summer.

Gallaudet's first President's Fellow, Brian Greenwald, has accepted a tenure track faculty appointment as an instructor in the Government and History Department. **G**

Mother says deaf ASL teachers best

The Goldenbaum family started to learn sign language when their youngest member, Rebecca, who will be a senior at Gallaudet this fall, was four years old. A hearing person was hired to teach ASL twice a week for five months to Rebecca's parents and her two older brothers. What they learned was basically the alphabet and signs that are typically used for beginning conversation. The family members increased their vocabulary of signs by reading various books on sign language.

Rebecca's education began in an oral school, but after a short time her parents felt it would be best if she went to the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Hampton. "We felt Rebecca would learn more and faster in a school where sign language was the primary mode of communication," said her mother, Becky. "The school offered speech training and I also did a lot of speech training and lip reading with her at home. We felt it was important for the whole family to do everything possible to communicate with Rebecca."

When Rebecca was about 10 years old, her parents separated and Becky moved with her children to Dallas, Tex., and enrolled Rebecca in a mainstream school that had interpreters. When she reached high school age, she went into a private Catholic school and Becky made sure the school provided an interpreter. According to Becky, her daughter was doing well academically but was missing out a lot socially. Around this time, Becky went to work at Marcus Elementary School in Dallas, teaching deaf children in the K-6 grades. "We had 23 deaf children in this

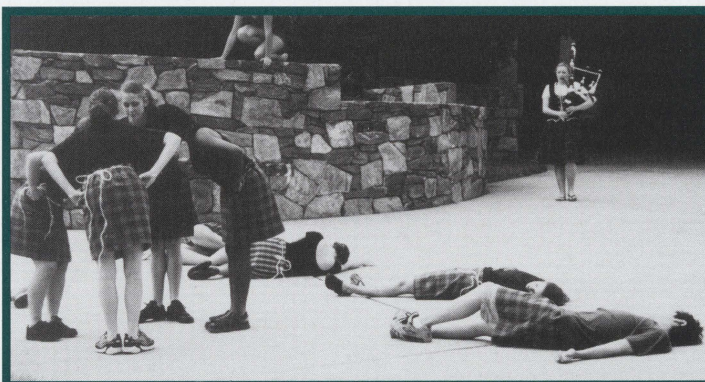
school and always used sign language," said Becky.

When Becky saw how important it is for deaf children to interact socially as well as academically, she felt Rebecca should conclude her final year in a deaf school. Rebecca's father was living in Riverside, Calif., so for her final year in high school, she went to the California School for the Deaf, Riverside, graduating in 1997. "I felt this was a good decision," said Becky, "and I could see the tremendous improvement in Rebecca's confidence and self-esteem."

In all the years she raised her daughter, Becky tried to improve her own signing skills. She read books on sign language and attended workshops in the Dallas area. But this summer, she decided to experience the real thing. "I always knew that Gallaudet was a Utopia for deaf people and the place to go to learn about deafness," said Becky. She signed up for a two-week summer course in ASL and said she learned more in that short time than the past 20 years. "What made this even more significant is that I had a deaf teacher, and I believe they are far more superior in teaching ASL," said Becky. "For a new signing hearing parent, initial communication might be difficult but it will give them a much better insight into their child's difficulty in communicating and the parent will learn more correct signs and appropriate ways of communicating with deaf people."

During the interview with this writer, Rebecca was correcting her mother on some signs, which Becky accepted good-naturedly. "Well, Mom was always correcting

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The Young Scholars Program culminated with a showcase performance July 20 that featured an exhibit of works by some of the nation's most talented young deaf artists, YSP 2001, a film showing young computer users' movie making and computer animation skills, and *Shadows of Scotland*, an original performance that reflected the cultural focus of this summer's featured country by YSP. *Shadows* (ABOVE) follows "Fiona," a rebellious teenager from the United States, who, on her parents' insistence, reluctantly travels to Scotland to learn of her family's heritage and becomes swept up in an exciting, mystical voyage through the country's rich past, experiencing its folklore, dance, music, and a clan battle. YSP, which completed its 17th year, provided opportunities for talented deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing youth to study in the areas of performing arts, visual arts, and computer explorations.



ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Dear Aunt Sophie,

Summer time brings thoughts of sipping cool lemonade and escaping to the beach to read mystery novels under a wide umbrella. Gallaudet has lots of mysteries and I wonder if you could clarify one for me. I've been told that long ago there were secret tunnels that connected the old buildings on campus and that they were used by students in inclement weather. Did such tunnels ever exist? If so, are they still being used today? Yours molefully,

A Mystery Fan

Dear MF,

Sorry, there are no secret dark and dreary tunnels alive with bats and spiders and other creepy critters around here. Once upon a time, however, there was a tunnel of sorts connecting College and Chapel halls, but it has evolved today into a bright, carpeted passageway open to one and all. Check it out.

Hi, Aunt Sophie,

Got a joke for you: How many professors does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: One—along with eight research students, two programmers, three post-doctoral candidates, and a secretary to help him.

Jokester

Dear Jokester,

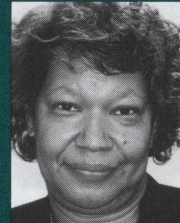
We must have read the same joke book. Here's one for you: How many graduate students does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: Just one, but it takes nine years!



For Sale: House in Hyattsville, Md., by owner—reduced price! 3 br/1 bath. Contact Sarah.Doleac@gallaudet.edu

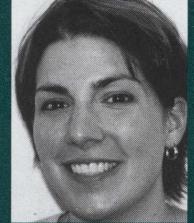
ROVING REPORTER

What is the one thing that really annoys you?



Marian Dickson, assistant director, Office of Financial Aid:

One thing that really annoys me is when you are trying to talk to someone, but they are rattling the chain that's connected to the desk pen. Most of the time they are not conscious of doing it.



Theresa Crean, graduate student in the Interpretation Program:

When I call Wyndtall customer service and they put me on hold for an hour and 15 minutes, and then they don't even fix my problem!



Carol Yeh, administrative assistant, Office of the President:

Having been a denizen of the Baltimore/Washington area for the past eight years, I can say that, without a doubt, driving on the Baltimore and D.C. beltways annoys me! They aren't beltways, they're parking lots that happen to move.



Holly Roth, ASL program specialist:

It bothers me when people ask me if I can read lips and if I can hear. Do they ask a person in a wheelchair if they can walk? Do they ask a legally blind person if they can see? I should ask them if they can sign.

CLERC CENTER HAPPENINGS

Students focus on recruitment issues

By Susan M. Flanigan

Politicians love them. If you want to find out what a particular group is thinking about an issue, you form a focus group.

At the Model Secondary School for the Deaf (MSSD), one of the key issues for this year and for years to come is recruitment. With a target goal of 250 students, MSSD is seeking ways to increase enrollment. A recruitment committee was formed to address the wide range of issues involved. The committee examined all the target audiences who need to be addressed, including MSSD students. In order to tap into current student thinking on recruitment topics, the committee decided to form a student focus group.

The focus group comprised three freshmen and three sophomores on the basis that they had the most recent experience of making a decision of where to go to high school. The lead teachers at MSSD helped the recruitment committee select a diverse group of students.

The students met on seven occasions over the school year, each time focusing on a particular issue. At the first meeting the students shared their personal experiences of how they came to find out about MSSD. They discovered the school from a variety of sources—friends already attending MSSD, family, friends, or

school counselors, and the Internet. In succeeding meetings, the students shared their opinions on: the Clerc Center Information Packet, which is used as a recruiting tool; the composition of the MSSD Web site; the MSSD tour for students and families; recruitment advertising; plans for future open houses; the design of a Clerc Center logo; and recruitment plans for next year.

The students emphasized the Web as a recruitment tool, wanting to see it become more interactive, maybe to even have a virtual school tour online that could also be available as a CD for mailing out to prospective students. Regarding the information packet, they wanted to see more photos, more history about MSSD, more information on dorm and after school life, as well as what happens on each team academically. For the school tour, the students wondered if some students could be trained to be tour guides. They thought that open houses would be beneficial and

suggested activities to include that would show off the best of MSSD.

The focus group moderators were Sandi Atuonah, coordinator for retention and recruitment, and Susan Flanigan, marketing and public relations coordinator. "The students gave us valuable insights," said Atuonah. "We value their creative ideas and look forward to making constructive changes to our recruitment approaches as a result."

Dr. Katherine Jankowski, interim dean for the Clerc Center, joined the students for their final meeting where she awarded them certificates of participation and expressed her personal appreciation for their efforts to help the school improve recruitment. **G**

Correction: In the "all... in a day's work" column in the July 27th issue of *On the Green* the correct job title for Robert Crowe is grounds supervisor.

AMONG OURSELVES

Linda Kozma-Spytek, research associate with the Technology Access Program, presented a workshop, "Digital Wireless Telephones and Hearing Aids: What do I Need to Know?" at the TDI Conference in South Dakota. Kozma-Spytek also wrote an article on the same topic in a recent issue of the Self Help for Hard of Hearing People magazine, *Hearing Journal*. The Gallaudet Research Institute has been studying digital wireless phones and their compatibility with hearing aids.

Dr. Pia Seagrave, professor of English, won an Honorable Mention Award in the Fifth Annual Jim Wayne Miller Prize in Poetry for her poem, "School Store." In addition to a cash prize, Seagrave has been invited to Carnegie Hall in Lexington, Ky., August 30 to read the poem during the awards celebration. Seagrave has also had three poems published in the spring and summer issues of *Appalachian Heritage* and one poem forthcoming in the fall issue of *The Threepenny Review*.

Deaf ASL teachers

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my speech while I was growing up, and now it's my turn to correct her signs," said Rebecca with a grin.

Becky said that if she had to do it all over again, she would still have her daughter fitted with a hearing aid and work on speech and lip reading but would learn

sign language sooner. "Knowing what I know now, I believe it is to the whole family's advantage to learn to communicate with their deaf members," said Becky. "Lip reading and speech alone is not the way to go. Sign language is by far the best way to supplement communication and I would encourage all parents to learn this form of communication." **G**



Becky and Rebecca Goldenbaum, mother and daughter, have a chat outside the EMG Building, where Rebecca works part time as a student tour guide.

